

What is Claimed:

1. A method of archiving an item comprising:
presenting the item to a parser;
parsing the item into a plurality of multi-part object structures
5 wherein portions of the structures have searchable information tags associated
therewith;
evaluating the object structures in accordance with object structures
previously stored in an archive;

presenting an evaluated object structure for manual reconciliation at
10 least where there is a predetermined variance between the object and at least one of
a predetermined standard and a user defined rule.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the respective structure can be
manually edited after being presented for reconciliation.

3. A method as in claim 1 which includes, before the parsing step,
15 converting an input item to a standardized format for input to the parser.

4. A method as in claim 1 which includes storing a reconciled object
structure in the archive without substantial redundancy.

5. A method as in claim 4 which includes selectively editing an object
structure, linked to other structures to thereby effect a one-to-many change in a
20 plurality of archived items.

6. A method as in claim 5 which includes compiling an item to be
output from the archive, wherein at least one object-type structure of the item has
been edited during the one-to-many change and wherein the compiled item includes
a plurality of linked object-type structures converted into a predetermined output
25 file format.

7. A method as in claim 6 which includes compiling a plurality of items
wherein the at least one object-type structure had been linked in the archive to
members of the plurality.

8. A method as in claim 7 wherein the plurality of items comprises a
30 plurality of color separations and including producing the color separations
sequentially wherein at least some of the separations contain a common graphical

symbol edited commonly in the archive by editing the respective common
respective object structure.

5 9. A method as in claim 1 which includes forming object oriented data
structures from the parsed items wherein the data structures include at least some of
item properties, item property values, element properties and element property
values.

10 10. An object, oriented archival system comprising:
a storage medium, and a set of executable instructions for
establishing an archive of documents represented by linked object oriented elements
stored in the medium, wherein the archive exhibits minimal redundancy with at
least some elements linked to pluralities of the elements and wherein some of the
instructions, in response to a selected editing command, alter at least one element
common to and linked to a selected plurality of other elements to thereby effect a
one-to-many editing process and additional instructions for compiling an output file,
15 in a selected format.

11. A system as in claim 10 which includes instructions for producing a
plurality of files corresponding to color separations for printing a multi-color item.

12. A system as in claim 10 which includes instructions for storing
object oriented elements incorporating property elements and associated values.

20 13. A system as in claim 12 which includes additional instructions for
storing document properties and property values.

14. A system as in claim 13 wherein the executable instructions link
selected property elements with selected document properties and values.

25 15. A system as in claim 10 wherein archived object oriented elements
comprise a data structure which incorporates document properties and associated
values.

16. A system as in claim 15 wherein document properties carry a linking
tag.

30 17. A system as in claim 10 wherein executable instructions compare
incoming object oriented elements to archived elements to thereby minimize
redundancy in the archive.

18. A system as in claim 10 wherein a document can be represented by a plurality of linked object-type data structures which include document properties; document property values, element properties and element property values.

19. A system as in claim 10 wherein the output file comprises at least one of an input for a printer, an input for a printing press, and an input for an electronic network.

20. A method of generating layers corresponding to color separations for a printing process comprising:

establishing an archive populated with a plurality of graphically oriented object-type structures wherein a first plurality of the structures represents a first layer, corresponding to a color separation for a multi-color output document, wherein the members of the first plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the first layer, and, at least a second plurality of the structures wherein the second plurality represents a second layer corresponding to a second color separation for the output document wherein the members of the second plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the second layer, and, wherein the establishing step includes, analyzing the members of the first and second pluralities for common structures, and storing a representation of only one structure in the event that multiple common structures are detected.

21. A method as in claim 20 which includes converting at least one new document to a predetermined input format, and parsing the document to a third plurality of object oriented-type structures.

22. A method as in claim 21 which includes evaluating the members of the third plurality in accordance with at least one of a predetermined rule and a predetermined standard.

23. A method as in claim 22 which includes producing at least one of a report and a visual display of the results of the evaluating step.

24. A method as in claim 23 which includes editing the visual display thereby altering at least one of the members of the third plurality.

25. A method as in claim 21 which includes comparing the object structures to the pre-stored contents of a selected archive and adding only non-redundant object structures to the archive and establishing at least one added link to a pre-stored object structure in the event of a detected redundancy wherein the contents of the archive are substantially non-redundant.

26. A method as in claim 21 which includes compiling at least one output document into a predetermined output formal from a plurality of archived object structures.

27. A method as in claim 20 which includes editing a plurality of layers, substantially simultaneously, by altering a single object structure, common to all of the layers.

28. A method as in claim 25 which includes editing a plurality of documents, substantially simultaneously, by altering a single object structure common to all of the documents.